

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY OES/NET:MBKRATZER:SK

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NEA - MR. ATHERTON (DRAFT)

NEA/IRN - MR. NAAS (DRAFT)

S/S - MR. BRIDGES

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R 150123Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227572

EXDIS, FOR HELMS FROM ATHERTON AND KRATZER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IR

SUBJECT: INTERAGENCY WHITE HOUSE STUDY ON NON-PROLIFERATION

1. DURING RECENT NUCLEAR ENERGY DISCUSSIONS IN TEHRAN, THE SECRETARY INFORMED ANSARY AND ETEMAD THAT WE WOULD EXAMINE TWO ISSUES RAISED BY IRANIANS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE INTER-AGENCY WHITE HOUSE STUDY ON NON-PROLIFERATION AND WOULD ATTEMPT TO INFORM IRANIANS OF OUR REACTIONS SO THAT BILATERAL

NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE RESUMED AT AN EARLY DATE. THE ISSUES, AS YOU RECALL, WERE FIRST WHETHER US WOULD BEAR THE COST OF THE COMMERCIAL RISK, I.E., THE EXCESS COSTS IF WE REQUIRED IRAN TO FOLLOW HIGHER COST REPROCESSING OPTION THAN IT WISHED TO DO AND, SECOND, WHETHER MEANS COULD BE FOUND TO PROVIDE IRAN WITH ASSURANCES THAT NUCLEAR EXPORT LICENSES WOULD BE ISSUED IF IT FULLY COMPLIES WITH TERMS OF AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION.

2. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE TO WHICH SECRETARY REFERRED HAS
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NOW COMPLETED ITS STUDY, WHICH IS WAITING PRESIDENTIAL DE-

CISION. THUS, WHILE WE ARE SOMEWHAT BEHIND SCHEDULE SUGGESTED BY SECRETARY, SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AND WE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ETEMAD AT LEAST PRELIMINARY REACTIONS TO THESE ISSUES DURING FORTHCOMING IAEA GENERAL

CONFERENCE IN RIO WHICH WE EXPECT HIM TO ATTEND. BOTH KRATZER AND SIEVERING WILL ALSO ATTEND.

3. WHILE WE ARE NOT, OF COURSE, IN A POSITION TO DISCLOSE RESULTS OF STUDY, WHICH IS SUBJECT TO PRESIDENTIAL DECISION, YOU MAY ASSURE BOTH ANSARY AND ETEMAD THAT ISSUES DISCUSSED IN TEHRAN HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AS PART OF INTERAGENCY REVIEW. YOU MAY ALSO NOTE THAT IN PARALLEL WITH EXECUTIVE BRANCH STUDY, NUCLEAR LEGISLATION IS NOW BEING DEVELOPED BY JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY

WHICH IF ADOPTED BY THE CONGRESS CAN HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON FUTURE US NUCLEAR COOPERATION POLICY. AMONG OTHER FEATURES, THIS PROPOSED LEGISLATION (S3770 AND HR 15419) WOULD RETURN FINAL AUTHORITY OF EXPORT OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT TO PRESIDENT, IF NRC REJECTS, OR IS UNABLE TO ACT AFFIRMATIVELY ON EXPORT LICENSES RECOMMENDED BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES. ROBINSON

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